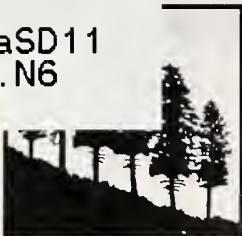


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Northern Region News



August 2, 1993

A Newsletter For Employees and Retirees

Issue 8



The Forest Service in Court: How Successful Are We?

by Olleke Rappe-Daniels,
Program Analyst, Regional Office

Several misconceptions exist regarding the appeals and litigation cases (resource management cases) that we work with in the Northern Region and our ability to prevail. One perception that is held by many employees is "the Forest Service is never successful in winning court cases." A second perception is that appeals preclude us from "accomplishing any work on the ground."

In an effort to provide accurate information about the status of appeals and litigation cases in the Region, we will be providing a litigation and appeals status report in the Northern Region News on a quarterly basis. This update will identify the numbers and types of appeals and court cases that we have been involved with and provide the status (won, lost, affirmed, reversed, withdrawn) of those cases. When a case has particular significance, such as the recent Yaak decision, we will highlight the status with comments.

APPEALS - R-I (Forest Supervisor or Regional Forester Review):

All R-I appeals decided in FY '93 (Qtr 1-3): 281
All R-I appeals - Affirmed: 180
All R-I appeals - Withdrawn/Dismissed: 72
All R-I appeals - Reversed: 29
R-I timber sale appeals decided in FY '93: 177
Timber sale appeals - Affirmed: 124
Timber sale appeals - Withdrawn/Dismissed: 38
Timber sale appeals - Reversed: 15
Other resource project appeals decided in FY'93: 104
Other appeals - Affirmed: 56
Other appeals - Withdrawn/Dismissed: 34
Other appeals - Reverse: 14

Pending Land and Resource Management Plans (WO review): 14

LITIGATION - R-I (FY '93):

Ongoing Resource Management litigation cases in FY '93: 23
Land and Resource Management Plans in litigation: 3 cases (2 on Flathead NF and 1 on Clearwater NF)
Timber sale litigation: 7 cases
Other Resource Management litigation: 13 cases

Resource cases settled/resolved in FY '93: 5

Litigation highlights: The U.S. District Court for Montana, on July 15th upheld the Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a challenge by environmentalists to a five-year timber sale in the Upper Yaak area of the Kootenai National Forest. Plaintiffs claimed that the Federal agencies violated the National Forest Management Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Administrative Procedures Act. Judge Lovell ruled that the Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service action fully complied with the law and that the decisions adopting and implementing the Upper Yaak timber sale were reasonable and well supported.

In another recent decision by Judge Lowell of the U.S. District Court for Montana, in December 1992, Judge Lovell upheld the Biological Opinions issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Flathead Forest Plan. Plaintiffs had challenged the legal adequacy of the consultation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service for the Flathead Forest Plan. Plaintiffs had alleged that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to use best scientific data in preparing Biological Opinion for the Flathead Forest plan in violation of Endangered Species Act (Section 7). In the same lawsuit the plaintiffs also alleged that the Flathead Forest Plan commits an illegal "taking" by allowing road densities to exceed one mile per square mile in occupied grizzly bear habitat in violation of the Endangered Species Act (Section 9). On the Section 9 challenge, the court conducted a hearing on the merits on June 22, 1993, in Helena, Montana. We are awaiting Judge Lovell's ruling on Section 9.



Awards Go To...

Darby Volunteers

by Jason Campbell, Communication Intern
Western Washington University

On Wednesday, July 14, volunteers at the historic Darby Visitor Center were presented a National Take Pride in America award for volunteer service, a program sponsored by the Department of the Interior. Dorothy Goodrich, Sidney



Back row, L to R - Marian Hill, Carlene Scheline, Sid Wilkerson;
Bottom row - Dot Goodrich, Martha Hayes, Peggy Smith, Darby
District Ranger Tom Wagner

Wilkerson, Martha Hayes, Marian Hill, Carlene Scheline, Peggy Smith, and Dave Groff were recognized nationally for their outstanding commitment to the stewardship of America's public lands and natural and cultural resources.

The award was presented by Darby District Ranger Tom Wagner in a ceremony held at the Darby Ranger Station. The local volunteers were commended for the 70 plus hours they donated weekly in 1992, providing historical information on the ranger station and the area to over 3,000 visitors.

The Darby Visitor Center is open to the public seven days a week, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Clearwater National Forest

by Deanna Riebe, Public Affairs Specialist
Clearwater National Forest

Just north of the Clearwater River in north central Idaho lies a unique set of historic trails known as the Lolo Trail System. It was there the earliest Americans found a route from the plains of eastern Washington, across the rugged Idaho wilderness, to Montana. The Nez Perce Indians called it the "buffalo trail." Lewis and Clark followed the Indian trail with some deviations as they traveled west in 1805, and east on their return trip in 1806. In 1877, the Nez Perce Indians used

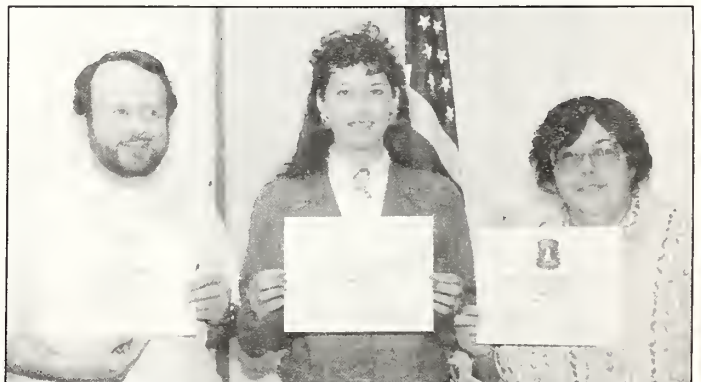
this route, which they called the Nee-Me-Poo Trail, to escape General Howard's troops during the Nez Perce War. It is for the sake of preserving the path of these very significant events in the history of our Nation that the Clearwater National Forest is making this effort to restore the Lolo Trail System.

The long-range plan is to open a continuous trail by the year 2005 (200 years after Lewis and Clark's trek) for those who want to walk these same historic paths. Progress has been made toward that goal during Take Pride in America events for each of the past six years. Initially the trail, overgrown with shrubs and trees, had to be cleared after 50 years of non-use. Signing along the historic trail, clean-up of dispersed camping areas, repair of bridges and continuing trail maintenance, were subsequent projects.

In 1992, the focus was on improving and stabilizing the tread of the historic trail. Over 100 volunteers from the private sector and the Forest Service aided in that effort. With pulaskis and shovels, they built 170 waterbars and drain dips on the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails to prevent erosion and help stabilize the trails for hikers and horses for years to come. Others installed new interpretive signs, cleaned up camping areas, and painted picnic tables and outhouses.

For the work completed in 1992, the Clearwater Forest was presented with the 1992 "Take Pride in Idaho" award, in Federal government category. The award was presented May 6 by Governor Cecil Andrus at the Governor's Conference on Recreation and Tourism. Dallas Emch, former district ranger for the Pierce Ranger District which hosted the project, accepted the award. Emch is now ecosystem management staff director for the Clearwater Forest.

Beaverhead Forest Employees



L to R - Beaverhead employees Mike Jatczynski, Kathy Smith, and Cathy Speich, received "Points of Light" awards for their work in teaching first aid in Beaverhead, Silver Bow, and Madison Counties.

Volunteers Learn Lesson in Sensitivity on Flathead Archaeological Survey

by Gary McLean, Forest Archaeologist
Flathead National Forest



The Diamond R Guest Ranch at Spotted Bear had its beginnings in 1927 when Guy Clatterbuck moved an old cabin to the site. Down through the years, another 18 buildings were added, but it has always been operated as an outfitter and guide hunting camp.

The ranch became the focus of attention the week of June 21 when eight volunteers, Flathead National Forest staff and others arrived to assess prehistoric resources and the historic buildings found on the site. Volunteers conducted limited test excavations to determine the extent of prehistoric cultural materials as part of the Diamond R's effort to develop a long-range management plan for the ranch. They also wrote detailed descriptions of the buildings and took photographs of the structures as part of the process to determine if the complex is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

This project was a Challenge Cost-Share program where the ranch provided the volunteers with room and board and the Flathead National Forest provided the tools and supervision of volunteers. Three members of the Kootenai Culture Committee were present to observe and consult during the course of the investigation.

In planning for the project, we were aware of the sensitivity of the area to the Kootenai Tribe. For that reason, during the orientation phase, I felt it important to stress to all those involved in the project to find a balance between management needs and the concerns of the Kootenai. From the response we got from the volunteers, it appears this approach accomplished the objectives of the Forest Service in a manner that did prove sensitive to the Kootenai.

June 20, 1993

Dear Gary,

I'm not very good at expressing myself effectively to people I don't really know, but this I had to say.

I see Indians, Native Americans, every day and I've never given much thought to them as a respected ancient culture. Even less have I thought about assessing something like archaeology from, specifically, the Kootenai point of view.

Ever since the fifth grade I've wanted to be an archaeologist, and years of dreams have consisted of travelling the world and finding fantastic treasures. Never did it occur to me that I would be no more than the rapist of a culture wanting to protect their heritage.

I cried when Pat Lefthand spoke, because through his words I was forced to realize that my dreams were blasphemous. I love people, and I can't believe that I had such a wanton disregard for an entire race.

Gary, you said we weren't there to dig for treasure, we were there to do a job. You have shown a reverent respect for a people I never gave a second thought to. And you have been an incredible teacher.

What I have learned may not equal a single grain in an entire wheat field, but archaeology to me now is gathering only the most necessary information with as little disturbance as possible, not plundering and collecting for superficial gain.

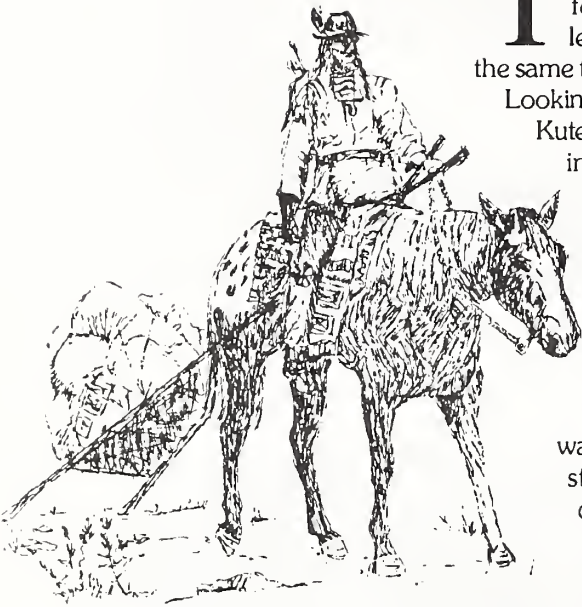
In my life I will always try to open my mind to every opinion offered and practice the ethics that I have learned from you.

This PIT project has been a lot of fun, but I will never forget how it has changed my entire way of thinking. I can say that I only hope I've been as worthy a student.

Thank you so very, very much.

Susie Keller

Editors note: Northern Region News staff were made aware of the above letter written by Susie Keller to Gary McLean courtesy of Montana State Historic Preservation Officer, Marcella Sherfy. Keller was a volunteer on the survey of the Diamond R Guest Ranch. Stated Sherfy, "I found it to be a good tribute to Gary, good testimony for what all that can be learned in PIT, and a good public summation of values and concerns about Native Americans that the world is still slow to learn."



I felt a mixture of awe and privilege to be riding and hiking on the same trail Chiefs Joseph, White Bird, Looking Glass, Hahtalekin, Husishusis Kute and Toohoolhoolzote used during the War of 1877; the same trail that Lewis and Clark traveled in 1805 and 1806; the trail that was first blazed thousands of years ago by ancestors of today's Nez Perce Indians (the Nee-Me-Poo).

I wondered if the beargrass was in bloom then, as today, stretching their long necks and creamy white heads to the sky. Was kinnikinnick covering the forest floor, and were the trees as they are now, or thicker or

taller, when these great chiefs rode through this forest for the last time?

It isn't difficult to put yourself back one hundred years, two hundred years and imagine how Lewis and Clark must have felt struggling through the dense Bitterroot Mountains. And when our group of 30-some hikers were stretched out over a long piece of this single-file trail, we had a small glimpse of what it must have been like when 750 Nez Perce with their 2,000 horses followed this same narrow trail in 1877, with General Howard's troops of an estimated 700 men in pursuit.

This summer, for the fourth consecutive year, people who are vitally interested in the preservation of the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails came together for the 1993 Nez Perce Trail ride to share the experience of reliving history and discuss how to preserve and protect this cultural resource. Participants came from the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribe, the Clearwater, Lolo and Nez Perce National Forests, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Foundation, and private landowners whose land these historic trails cross—Champion International, and Plum Creek Timber Company.

The participants traveled by foot and horseback, as did the early travelers, with interpretive specialists there to help unfold the history. "It was an opportunity to learn, to get to know others who share the passion for preserving this part of the past, and to discuss options for management of the trail," said Margaret Gorski, Powell District Ranger, who led this year's trail

ride effort. "It was a time for sharing concerns and opinions on how these famous trails should be interpreted."

Allen Pinkham, Nez Perce Tribal member and Forest Service employee said, "We want people to understand what happened. We were a part of the history, and we want to make sure our part is told correctly." Getting the Native American view was further explained by Tribal member Herman Reuben. "The reason the Nez Perce were running must be emphasized. They were leaving their homeland in order to survive—to save their culture, their religion, their lives, their way of life. It was not just a flight from General Howard's troops."

This travel route, known today as the Lolo Trail System, crosses the Clearwater and Lolo National Forests from Weippe, Idaho, to Lolo, Montana—a distance of about 150 miles. Besides including parts of the Lewis and Clark and the Nez Perce National Historic Trails, it was also the main travel route across the ridgetops of the Bitterroots for miners, trappers, and explorers. This year, the focus was on the far eastern section of trail—from Fort Fizzle, near Lolo, Montana, west to Powell, Idaho.

Champion International has proven to be a valuable partner in this preservation effort. In 1986, Champion exchanged a 40-acre parcel of land with the Lolo National Forest at Howard Creek trailhead where an interpretive site has now been established. And currently the Forest Service is negotiating with Champion to acquire a right-of-way where the trail crosses Champion's land in order to protect and preserve the trail.

Nez Perce Tribal members were eager to share their culture and beliefs. They treated everyone to a feast of salmon cooked on sticks over an open fire, roots, berries, fried bread and mountain tea. Campfires each evening brought a mixture of reminiscing on the day's events, story-telling, stick games, drumming and dancing.

The Clearwater National Forest is in the process of writing an Environmental Impact Statement for the Lolo Trail System, which includes proposals to revise and update the guidelines for management of the trail, to make minor improvements on the Lolo Motorway (Road 500), and to construct a continuous recreation trail across the Forest along the Lolo Trail route. Anyone who wants more information on these proposals can contact George Harbaugh, Lochsa Ranger District, Route, 1, Box 398, Kooskia, Idaho, 83539.

On the Nez Perce Trail

by Deanna Riebe,
Public Affairs Specialist
Clearwater National Forest

Restoring and Interpreting the Lolo Trail

by Milo McLeod, Forest Archaeologist
Lolo National Forest

The Lolo Trail in the Missoula District, Lolo National Forest, received some tender loving care and a lot of hard work this spring from Boy Scouts and members of the Travelers Rest Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation.

The Lolo Trail, A National Historic Landmark, extends from Lolo, Montana, to Wippe Idaho, a distance of nearly 150 miles. The trail lies on lands administered by the Lolo National Forest in Montana and the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho. In Montana, the Lolo Trail is also designated the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce National Historic Trails.

The trail saw use by Native Americans, explorers, fur traders, miners and railroad builders, as well as by the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1805 and 1806. It also proved an important artery in the Nez Perce war of 1877. The new Howard Creek trailhead, located approximately 17 miles west of the Lolo, Montana, and adjacent to Highway 12, will interpret the historic role played by this important travel route.

The concept for the Howard Creek trailhead began nearly 15 years ago during timber sale layout and design for the Helio 12 timber sale. Fire suppression for over 100 years allowed the growth of thick Douglas fir which in many places completely choked in the historic trail. One of the objectives of the sale was to reduce the Douglas fir encroachment and, with the addition of prescribed fire, return the Lolo Trail and the historic scene to an open ponderosa pine stand which would have been viewed by Lewis and Clark in 1805 and 1806. During this period, the area was experiencing natural fires roughly every 17-25 years.

When the timber sale was carried out, not all the debris left on the



Nancy Maxson at left and other members of the Travelers Rest Chapter hiking along the Lolo Trail during clean-up activities

ground was consumed in a prescribed burn following the sale. Much of it needed to be hand piled and re-burned. Local Boy Scouts worked under the supervision of Gene Thompson, Missoula District recreation technician, and Kristin Whisenand, archeological technician. Employees and volunteers worked hard long hours May 15 and 16, hand piling the partially burned slash and fighting off the infamous ticks. The following Saturday saw members of the Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation continuing to pile where the Boy Scouts stopped the week before.

The Howard Creek trailhead has now been constructed and the interpretative signs describing the historic events along the Lolo Trail will be completed later this summer.

For those who worked on the project, the historic trail proved worth the effort. Stated Nancy Maxson, secretary-treasurer for the Travelers Rest Chapter, "You can really see the challenges those early travelers had to endure from here. This puts a whole different perspective on the Lewis and Clark expedition, a perspective you just don't get traveling Highway 12," she said.



John Walker with his niece. Says John, "Sometimes life can seem pretty harsh when dealing with law enforcement, criminal investigations, and folks in tough situations in the backcountry. But simple things like a good home-cooked meal with an adoring companion make it all worth while!"

Spotlight

John Walker

From: Born in Hardin, Montana. Moved at early age to Livingston, Montana area.

Profession: Law Enforcement Officer, Livingston Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest.

What Job REALLY Is: Daily activities include patrolling backcountry and wilderness for illegal activities; investigating scenes for evidence; interviewing suspects, etc.; preparing cases for trial; testifying when necessary; briefing legal representatives and management on law enforcement matters; preparing and maintaining documentation of criminal investigations. Also involved in search and rescue for people lost and or injured in the backcountry.

Best Part of My Job Is: The great folks I get to work with.

Funniest Work Experience: While working with other Level IV law enforcement officers in a very remote part of the Salmon River country, we got our vehicle stuck. Being as we were in a fairly new, big, powerful, 4WD vehicle, we weren't immediately concerned. However, when the driver went to shift into 4WD, the lever came off in his hand! There we were, hopelessly stuck, without 4WD or radio contact with the outside world, and starting to feel fairly desperate. In the end, we managed to "manipulate" the vehicle into 4WD, and amidst much cursing and mud-flinging, finally got unstuck. What makes it so funny now is that I wasn't the one driving the truck!

Previous Life: Ranching, outfitting/guiding, truck driving, cowboy, rodeo.

Favorite Place in the World: Any place in the mountains.

People I Wish I'd Met: Dick Tracy, Jimmy Hoffa

How I Spend My Time Away from Work: I really have the best of both worlds; I really enjoy my job, and when I'm not "on the job," I get to do what I really love—ranching.

Dream vacation: An all expense paid trip to New Zealand.

My Greatest Adventure: My trip to Alaska in 1991 on a timber theft investigation. What made this trip an adventure was that it was such a learning experience. I got a chance to meet and interview many of the native people and learn about their lifestyles and economy (including the export of logs). I also got to see a lot of spectacular country along the coastal area of southeast Alaska.

Land Purchases - Where the \$\$\$ Come From

by Jeanne Evenden,
Regional Lands Adjustments Specialist
Regional Office

Ever wondered where Region 1 gets the money for land purchases? The success of the Region's land purchase program over the last few years has been made possible only through partnerships. Since FY 1990 the Region has acquired nearly 50,000 acres at a total cost of almost \$20 million in successful cooperative partnerships with private organizations and other Federal and State agencies.

Land & Water Conservation Fund moneys can be used to buy lands for recreation; purchase inholdings; protect scenic wonders and archeological sites; and protect habitats, sensitive ecosystems, wetlands and watersheds, migration corridors, and plant and animal reintroduction efforts. Recent Northern Region acquisitions have focused on protection of wild and scenic river values, threatened and endangered species and big game habitat, migration corridors and ownership consolidation.

Since 1990, acquisitions of particular note in the Region include:

Wild & Scenic Rivers - Clearwater, Flathead and Nez Perce National Forests. Fee title and conservation easement purchases along the Clearwater, Flathead and Salmon Wild and Scenic Rivers have resulted in protection of natural, scenic and recreation values on 23 tracts totaling 750 acres.

Threatened & Endangered Species Habitat - Kootenai National Forest. An 800-acre tract which includes 1.5 miles of Bull River frontage, and is extremely important for maintaining the integrity of an essential grizzly bear movement corridor, was purchased in 1992.

Migration Corridors & Wildlife Habitat - Gallatin National Forest. In a unique public/private partnership between the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Yellowstone National Park and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, over 6,500 acres have been acquired at a cost of \$8 million. These acquisitions protect the wintering area and provide migration corridors for one of the largest elk herds in North America, complement the recovery plan for the threatened grizzly bear and assist the endangered bald eagle and sensitive Yellowstone cutthroat trout by providing additional undisturbed habitat and food sources. Purchases for this project began in 1990; the final purchase was completed last month. A public dedication to celebrate these accomplishments and recognize the national significance of these acquisitions was held July 17 in Gardiner, Montana.

Ownership Consolidation - Gallatin and Lewis and Clark National Forests. A total of 39,000 acres in the Crazy Mountains was purchased for \$7 million. The final phase of the three-year purchase was completed in February. The landownership in this area was configured in a checkerboard pattern after grants of alternate sections to the Northern Pacific Railroad in the late 1800's. Consolidation of these lands will resolve management problems associated with the intermingled ownership and improve access for the public. The Gallatin and Lewis and Clark National Forests are in the process of developing management plans for these significant additions to their respective Forests.

The People Factor in Ecosystem Management

by Madelyn Kempf, Public Affairs Specialist
Bitterroot National Forest



For thousands of years, ecosystems have had three dimensions—the physical, biological and human. Until recently, ecosystem management (EM) has concentrated on the biological and physical. There is now the desire to better integrate the third dimension into EM—the human dimension.

The human dimension includes people's traditional and changing perceptions, their beliefs, attitudes, behaviors, needs and values. Because this component has such a profound affect on the ecosystem, it is important that we understand and adequately address it, states Cynthia Manning, Region 1 social scientist.

The basic precept, explains Manning, is that "We can't look at ourselves as separate from ecosystems and ecological processes. People have been a part of the North American landscape for 10-12 thousand years. During that time period, people have had a lot of influence over their environment. They not only hunted bison and other animal species, but relied heavily on plant food for their subsistence." Manipulation of the environment by man, therefore, has occurred since prehistoric times.

The trick now is to assure that the dynamics of human concerns is interwoven into the fabric of EM. Manning is on the "cutting edge" of a process that is attempting to do just that. She has been working closely with Regional landscape architect Larry Blocker to integrate human dimension elements—recreation opportunities; landscapes; prehistoric/historic considerations; public involvement; economic/social considerations; spiritual values—into the overall EM framework.

"In the past, we have not had enough information regarding social impacts and thus could not fully recognize what human attitudes, values, wants and needs were," stresses Manning. The critical need now, she says, is to have an analysis of the existing situation on which to base decisions.

Looking ahead, Manning reveals that Region 1 plans to complete a social assessment this summer for the Bitterroot Valley. The motive behind the assessment is a need to examine issues associated with wildfire and prescribed burns.

Manning is also part of a national task force which is working to address the human dimension components of EM. Like the human dimension task group being formed in Region 1, the national group is comprised of landscape architects, public affairs specialists, archaeologists, research, timber, wildlife—all the various resource areas. There is now the awareness that it is only by using fully integrated interdisciplinary natural and social resources can forests and grasslands be sustained as productive and healthy ecosystems.

Fire in Wilderness Issues Discussed by Fire Managers

by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Officer
Beaverhead National Forest

Management of fire in wilderness continues to be a complex issue. As learned in the Yellowstone fires of 1988, it is vital that fire managers come to an understanding and agreement on basic procedures such as when natural fires are allowed to burn or when and how they are to be suppressed when they are declared wildfires.

Addressing these questions were Forest Service fire managers from the Bitterroot, Deerlodge, and Beaverhead National Forests in a meeting held June 10 in Dillon on procedures for managing fire in the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness. The 159,000-acre wilderness lies in southwest Montana's Pintler Range, where Ravalli, Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, and Granite counties meet.

The plan calls for fire managers to decide within two hours if a fire can be allowed to burn as a "prescribed natural fire" (PNF), or if it's an unwanted "wildfire."

In the June 10 exercise, the managers formed several teams and each team was given information about a lightning-started fire. Each team then weighed a number of factors:

- the risk of the fire burning out of the wilderness (based on terrain, weather, and the vegetation involved)
- the ecological effects of the fire
- the disruption it could cause to recreationists in the wilderness and to others outside the wilderness affected by smoke from the fire
- the kind of resources (people and equipment) needed to manage the fires
- the cost of managing fires

"We've done a good job of keeping fire out of much of our forested lands in the last 60 to 80 years," commented Ron Prichard, forest supervisor of the Beaverhead National Forest, but at an ecological cost to the forests. "Without fire, many of our forest systems have begun to change, to become less productive for not only trees, but other forms of life, too. We've actually increased the threat of massive fires by allowing dead material to accumulate," Prichard said.

The critical element, of course, in fire management is being able to predict the path and size of fires, which is not always an exact science. Fires can behave erratically, defying all predictions. Fires that are desirable under certain conditions can become "wildfires" to be suppressed if they overreach set bounds. To remain in control when prescribed natural fires are occurring in wilderness, agency fire managers have to be alert, re-evaluating management decisions and PNF status on a daily basis, Prichard explained.

Fire managers expect a moderate fire season this year, thanks to the spring rains that have drenched southwest Montana. Still, when drier weather and lightning come to the Pintler Range, you just may see wisps of smoke rising from the high country. This year, that could be a sign of nature taking its course once more, under watchful human eyes.

An Education in Wildflowers at Bonners Ferry RD Office

by Maridel Merritt, Writer/Editor
& Jenny Taylor, Wildlife Biologist
Bonners Ferry Ranger District
Idaho Panhandle National Forests

When the dust settled from the reconstruction of the driveway and main office entry at the Bonners Ferry Ranger District, wildlife biologist Jenny Taylor asked what was planned for the areas of raw dirt along the new sidewalks. She felt the district had a wonderful opportunity to greet visitors with something a bit more exciting than grass or colored crushed rock. Jenny proposed the planting of a native species wildflower garden.

Botanist Diane Amato and Jenny went to work identifying native plants which would thrive as office landscaping. Perhaps the most challenging part of the garden planning was locating sources for either seedling plants or seed. With donations from district employees and local native plant growers, the cost of the garden was kept relatively low.

The garden covers a strip about 6 feet wide along 150 feet of sidewalk and driveway at the front of the ranger district office. Diane and Jenny seeded and transplanted 28 native species. Germination has been slow during this cold, wet summer. The rose, yarrow, lupine, flax and sheep fescue seem to be the ones favored by this cooler weather. They are outgrowing the rest of the plantings.

Transplants moved to the garden are: red-osier dogwood, redstem ceanothus, serviceberry, Indian paintbrush, blanket-flower, bluebells, dogwood bunchberry, woods rose, Oregon grape, trillium, heartleaf amica, false Solomonseal and pachistima. The plants started from seed are: silky lupine, shooting star, Sitka columbine, sticky geranium, arrowleaf balsamroot, yarrow, Lewis' flax, Rocky Mountain iris, Lewis' monkeyflower, Wasatch penstemon and sheep fescue. The only flower in the garden which is not native to Idaho is the bleeding heart. It is native to other parts of the Pacific Northwest.

The workforce for the preparation, planting, seeding and weeding was volunteer. District employees and plant enthusiasts from as far as Sandpoint teamed up in recognition of National Wildflower Month in May. The rototilling had to be done during a drizzling of rain on a Friday evening. And the videographer was seen with a garbage bag "raincoat" on the camera Saturday morning. But the gardeners recharged their batteries with donated doughnuts and pepper plants for their home gardens. Everyone had a good time. The rewards are still coming as new plants sprout and push up through the ground.

As the garden becomes established it will be an educational tool for visitors and district employees. Each wildflower species will be labelled. The office has booklets describing the plants and relating some of their history and medicinal and food uses by Native Americans. It will also give public one more way to enjoy the treasures of the national forests. Please stop by the office and enjoy our garden.

Johnny Appleseeds of the '90s

by John Hamilton, Forestry Technician
Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District

Every year they come. Each spring, crews of tree planters arrive, pitch their tents, park their cars or trucks, and prepare for another season of reforestation.

On national forest lands, thousands of acres where timber has been cut must be replanted, largely completed by crews working under contract. Planting is accomplished either through the use of agency employees or by contract crews. It's not the easiest job in the world, but it's one of the most important.

This year Hoedads, Inc., based out of Springfield, Oregon, won the contract and the right to plant almost 600 acres on the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District. Rock Creek Reforestation, headquartered in Plains, assisted the Hoedads, sub-contracting out about 100 acres.

Tree planting is tough—a physically demanding job that requires strength, stamina, and a willingness to work and sleep outdoors in weather ranging from winter-like to summer-like with everything in-between.

A typical day for planting crews starts early (sometimes as early as 4 am) and often ends late in the afternoon or early evening. After "bagging up" with from

200 to 400 seedlings, planters grab their hoedads (a large hoe-like tool) and repeatedly hammer the oft times rocky ground, looking for suitable planting spots.

All the while, planters will be contesting with steep slopes and obstacles such as logs, stumps, rocks, and brush. And there's the weather. Searing heat can give way to rain and chilly air in a matter of minutes, and the chance of cold and snow always lingers.

The people who do this back-breaking work season after season are a diverse lot. But they share a common belief—that what they do is important. Jim Stokes, crew foreman and co-owner of Rock Creek Reforestation, commented on why they do what they do. "Tree planters are basically independent people," he stated. "The job is good for folks with itchy feet. And they like it. They get paid a fair wage, meet different people, and get the chance to see new country."

Another Hoedad crew member, Ken Gill, says he grew up in "the ghettos of Kansas City, Kansas" before finding tree planting work in Oregon. He tried working at a sawmill once. He lasted a week, then went back to planting trees. A tree planter since 1979, when he was 16, Gill



Hoedad crew foreman Janice Sunseri

estimates that he has planted 1.5 million trees since then. And he's not finished yet. "I love it," Gill exclaims. "I'd have to be crippled before I would give it up."

The seasonal nature of tree planting requires crew members to be flexible, to have other work to fall back on. Todd Stiger, for example, picks mushrooms and huckleberries when in season, and does thinning work at other times.

These very valuable people go about their work largely unseen by most Forest Service employees and by the public. But their services are vital to the agency and the environment. They bring new life to the forest.

A Perfect Match

by Mary Wildeman, Crew Leader
Montana Conservation Corps



Back row, L to R - Kalin Raible, Kristie Howard, William McCarty, Sam Cummins. Front, L to R - Mary Wildeman, Alicia Bertolli

The Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) is a private, non-profit organization. It has existed for two years and is modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of the 1930's. Their goal is to teach the values of hard work, education, and community service of young adults.

The Ninemile Ranger Station gave MCC an ideal project—scraping seven to nine layers of paint off an historic building built by the CCC's. Then paint wood preservative and three coats of paint. Yes, that will keep the MCC busy for the full eight weeks they stay at the Ranger Station.

The MCC operates 40 hours a week with 32 hours of project work and 8 hours for education. Here at Ninemile we had visits to the CCC camp, historic tour of complex, a visit to Stark Lookout, received CPR/First Aid training, and fire training.

The biggest resource Ninemile has offered to MCC is the sense of community. Everyone here at Ninemile is great! The feeling of being a part of the group has enabled us, the MCC, to accomplish hard work and to appreciate the education. This relationship is truly a match made in heaven.

Volunteer a Long Way from Home

by James Soular, Civil Engineer Technician
Lolo National Forest

Some people will go to great lengths to volunteer their services, but few have gone as far as Uriy Borislavov Atanassov. Uriy, 37, traveled from Gabrovo, Bulgaria, in late May of this year to the Superior Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest.

Uriy (that's "yoor-een") said he decided to visit the U.S. "for the experience and to improve my English." A mechanical engineer by profession, he worked in Syria on a surface gas pipeline for two years to earn the money for his trip.

After reading a booklet about volunteering in the U.S., Uriy wrote for a catalog which contained addresses of national forests and monuments. He eventually chose the Superior Ranger District. "I'm an angler," he explained, "and I felt this area offered the best opportunities for fishing."

Uriy is residing in the Forest Service bunkhouse at St. Regis. As a volunteer, he has been painting, mowing and watering lawns, assisting with trail work and helping in campgrounds. He also hopes to work with the timber crew.

Carole Johnson, forestry technician on the district who has worked with Uriy in the district's campgrounds, said, "Uriy is very polite, very pleasant. He's an excellent worker. In fact, once he gets going, we have to tell him when to quit."

Not all has gone well for Uriy, however. Soon after arriving in New York, a thief stole \$2,000 and his return air ticket from his luggage, leaving him stranded in the U.S. He arrived at Superior with just the \$200 that he had kept in his wallet. By the time he bought the required work boots and a few other items, he had \$30 left with which to survive.

Uriy said the \$15 a day he receives for his volunteer duties leaves very little to save after day-to-day expenses. He has been supplementing his diet through fishing and gathering "around ten types of mushrooms. It's very good for them right now."

Both Uriy and Sandy Green, district personnel clerk, tried for six weeks to contact Balkan Airlines in New York to inquire about replacing his ticket. Finally, after several faxes and numerous attempts by phone, Green was able to establish contact with the airlines in New York City. She was informed that Balkan Airlines will provide Uriy with a duplicate return ticket to Bulgaria from New York City. There was one minor hitch. His original ticket was for six months which would have allowed him to stay until mid-October. He now has to catch his flight to Bulgaria by August 30th at the latest. No explanation was given by the airlines for changing the time period.

"Bulgaria is currently not a good place to live. The economy is in poor shape because Bulgarian industry was closely tied to the military, and with the demise of the Soviet Union, the industry base is in a state of collapse. Bulgaria must begin to create a middle class which will help to generate economic change and real independence," he added.

Uriy's bad experience in New York has not dampened his hopes to someday return to the U.S. "But first," he said, "I must return to Bulgaria and become successful. And I hope to bring a wife next time." Uriy's fiancée, Albenia Dimitrova, is currently studying in Bulgaria to be an engineer. Uriy proudly announced, "We plan to get married around Christmas."

Students
and
a mother at
one of work
stations at
AIMS camp



photo by Dave Tippets

Adventures in Math and Science

by Lewis YellowRobe, Student Stay-in-School
Regional Office

Many Indian students show very little interest in math and science and need to be better prepared and more competitive in these fields, said Ira Jones, Region 1 Native American/Hispanic program manager. To help address the problem, the Forest Service co-sponsored the American Indian Math and Science Camp (AIMS) on the Flathead Indian Reservation June 13-16. In attendance were 77 Native American 5th and 6th graders and many of their parents from the seven Indian reservations in Montana.

Kim Skyelander, Region 1 employee on an assignment with the Salish-Kootenai College, designed the camp curriculum. Sponsors for AIMS were the Forest Service Intermountain Research Station and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes. Coordination of the camp was handled by Ira Jones.

The camp focused on three natural resources themes: forests, wildlife and water. Each theme day had six work stations conducted by Native American forestry and wildlife professionals from the Salish and Kootenai Tribe. These Native American foresters, who served as role models for the impressionable students, told the students of their educational paths and about their professional careers in natural resources for the tribe.

A variety of activities were scheduled at the work stations. For example they measured tree age, height and width, planting width and plant growth; visited the National Bison Range where they learned about bison habitat and behavior through a series of videos and talks by Range spokespersons; measured water velocity and depth; analyzed chemical and mineral components of the water; caught aquatic insects and identified, counted, measured and sorted them by species.

The students were surprised when they found out they were using math and science skill in the work stations, said Skyelander. The students expected traditional textbook math and science lessons rather than hands-on experiences.

The students learned about tribal culture through drumming, hand-game demonstrations and a presentation, *Inspirada Americana*. Two Native American artists showed art work and gave Native American musical presentations to the students.

The student response was positive, commented Kim Skyelander. She's enthusiastic about next year's camp, but isn't sure she can use all the students' ideas for next year. One student suggested, "Next year, leave the parents at home."

Personnel Update

BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

MILLER, JUANITA, resource clerk, SO, promotion, resource assistant

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

BLACKWELL, REX, supervisory civil engineer, detail, Deerlodge NF

GLEASON, JAMES, forestry tech (fire), Wisdom RD, reassignment, forestry tech (Recreation), Wisdom RD

KIECKBUSCH, SANDY, support services supervisor, Sheridan RD, detail, SO

RESIGNATIONS

PEHLING, ANN, forestry tech, Wisdom RD

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

HUGHES, JOHN, forestry technician, Darby RD, belt buckle award

TAYLOR, CHERI, clerk typist, West Fork RD, cash award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

FEARS, JIM, computer specialist, Stevensville RD, reassignment, SO

DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BARRINGER, PATRICIA, civil engineering technician, Jefferson RD, promotion

EVANS, PATRICE, computer assistant, SO, promotion

MARIANI, JINA, wildlife biologist, Butte RD, promotion

WIEBE, LINDON, forestry technician, Philipsburg RD, promotion

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

GUMP, ROBERT, forester, Philipsburg RD1 reassign, Jefferson RD

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS

LUNDBORG, KATHRYN, student trainee (civil engineering), SO, resignation

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS

BADGETT, BILL, civil engineering technician, SO, spot award

MILBURN, DEBBIE, purchasing agent, SO, spot award

RUDOLF, SUZANN, office automation clerk, Helena RD, spot award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

MADDEN, DAVE, office automation clerk, Helena RD, reassignment

VORE, DENISE, hydrologist, Helena RD to National Park Service

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

AWARDS/PROMOTIONS

COLES, BARRY, supervisory forester, Priest Lake RD, temporary

promotion and detail, writer/NEPA specialist, Eldorado NF

HALLEN, DAVID, term promotion, contract specialist, SO

HAMMET, ANNA, forestry technician, quality step increase, Sandpoint RD

MOUSSEAU, MARK, forester, promotion, supervisory forester, Coeur d'Alene Nursery

RUSSELL, SALLY, forestry technician, promotion, Fernan RD

SCOTT, LISA, Wallace RD, temporary promotion, geologist, Eldorado NF

REASSIGNMENT/TRANSFERS

BEHRENS, PATRICK, forester, reassignment, forester, Bonners Ferry RD

PARKS, STANLEY, forest technician, reassignment, Wallace RD

TOWN, TIMOTHY, labor relations specialist, reassignment, personnel management specialist, SO

RESIGNATIONS

DELBIDGE, ELLEN, tractor operator, resignation, Coeur d'Alene Nursery

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ANDERSEN, TED, forester, SO, performance award

EHMANN, CHERYL, resource clerk, Fisher River RD, spot award

HALVORSON, MARGARET, resource technician, Fisher River RD, spot award

KILROY, JAMES, forestry technician, Rexford RD, special act

LANE, ALAN, forestry tech, Three Rivers RD, spot award

LUNDEBERG, RENEE, forester, Libby RD, temporary promotio

MCGUIRE, GERALD, supervisory forestry technician, Rexford RD, special act

MCAHON, MICHAEL, forestry technician, Fortine RD, special act

NELSON, NEIL, forestry technician, Rexford RD, promotion

NIENOW, MARK, hydrologist, Fisher River RD, promotion, Lewis & Clark NF

SHUEY, THERESA, purchasing agent, Fortine RD, special act

WILSON, ANNE, student trainee botany, Cabinet RD, promotion

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

SESTRICH, JOLENE, student trainee, Helena NF, reassignment, East Zone

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BREKKE, CAROL, resource clerk, Missoula RD, promotion

DECAPRILES, JACKIE, business management clerk, Plains RD, temporary

promotion, support services supervisor, Plains RD

KIPPHUT, JOE, forester, Missoula RD, cash award

MCNICOLL, CECI, ecologist, Lolo SO, promotion

THOMPSON, GENE, forestry technician, Missoula RD, cash award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

BROSNAHAN, JOHN, computer specialist, SO, transfer, computer

specialist, DOI, Office of Surface Mining, Washington, D.C.

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS AND PROMOTION

BERG, HEATHER, forester, Selway RD, promotion

CANNON, DAVID, fishery biologist, Bridger-Teton NF, Elk City RD, promotion

COX, SUSAN, support services supervisor, Red River RD, promotion

DAILEY, SUSAN, support services supervisor, Salmon River RD, promotion

GOOSMAN, WILLIAM, supervisory range conservationist, cash award

HAUGER, JULIE, support services specialist, Moose Creek RD, quality increase

HAYHURST, MARIE, resource clerk, Elk City RD, cash awards

KENNY, MARGARET, hydrologist, Elk City RD, cash award

MCGEE, MONICA, supervisory computer assistant, SO, promotion

PARADISO, SUE, forester, Clearwater RD, cash award

WASSMUTH, DEBRA, resource clerk, Clearwater RD, cash award

REASSIGNMENTS

EVERETT, DAVID, forester, Gallatin NF, reassignment, SO

GEARY, LOIS, program assistant, smokejumper, A&FM-AFD, spot award

REGIONAL OFFICE

AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS

DORVILLE, DOROTHY, program assistant, MTDC, cash award

HARDEN, BETTY, computer specialist, A&FM-AFD, spot award

HAYES, ANDY, forestry tech-smokejumper, A&FM-AFD, spot award

PATTEN, MIKE, forestry tech-smokejumper, A&FM-AFD, spot award

WRIGHT, MARK, forestry tech-smokejumper, A&FM-AFM, spot award

REASSIGNMENT/TRANSFERS

JONES, NANCY, accounting technician, A&FM-AFD, from PSW -

Forest & Range Experiment Station, Arcata, CA

SMITH, FRANK, electronics technician, A&FM-AFD, from Norton AFB

ANDERSON, ELLEN, office automation clerk, ADM, from Avery RD

Newsletter Guidelines

The Northern Region News is published by the Northern Region Public Affairs Office for employees and retirees. Following are guidelines for submitting stories:

- Articles should feature Forest Service employees and retirees involved in Forest Service activities and projects.

- Articles must be concise and timely. All articles are subject to editing, and may not be used if outdated, inappropriate, or if space does not permit.

- Photos should be black and white, glossy prints if possible.

Send articles to G.Weisgerber:R01A (Data General) or Gloria Weisgerber, Northern Region Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807.

The public affairs officer on your Forest may want to preview articles before they are sent. If so, please follow that process.

Personnel Changes

Liz Dailey knows what it's like to move around in the Forest Service. She has moved 15 times since her first job with the agency in 1977 at the Bridger Tetons National Forest. Her latest position is as the new support services supervisor with the Salmon River Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest. She was previously the program assistant in the Engineering department at the Forest supervisors office. In total, she has worked in two regions, four national forests, the Intermountain Station, seven ranger districts, and a brief stay with the Bureau of Land Management State Office in California.



Liz Dailey

Born and raised on a ranch near Jackson, Wyoming, Liz recalls her favorite job as a ranch cowhand when she was a teenager working out of a cow camp. She and her husband Dennis, who also works for the Nez Perce Forest, live above Harpster where they enjoy horses and all of the work involved in maintaining a small ranch.

Program assistant **Lois Geary** of Grangeville has joined employees at the headquarters office of the Nez Perce National Forest. Geary is filling the position in the Engineering unit vacated by Liz Dailey who accepted the support services supervisor position with the Salmon River Ranger District at Slate Creek.

Born in Michigan, Lois Geary came to Idaho at age three with her family. Her career includes work as a bookkeeper and accountant in the private sector before starting work with the Forest Service as a resource clerk at Slate Creek in 1989.

Lois and her husband Dick live in Grangeville. They have two grown sons. As an avid sports person, Lois loves to play organized volleyball, softball and golf.

In Memoriam

Art Carothers, engineering team leader and district engineer at Priest Lake Ranger District, passed away June 11. Carothers, who had been suffering from brain cancer, was 51.

Born and raised on his parents farm and resort on Mirror Lake, near Sagle, Idaho, Carothers began his Forest Service career in 1959 while still in high school. His position was as surveying aide with the Kaniksu National Forest in Sandpoint, Idaho. After graduation from college, he continued working for the agency, designing and constructing roads, bridges, buildings, campgrounds and trails. From 1967-68, Carothers served in Region 6, Bear Valley Ranger District, Malheur National Forest and the Colville National Forest. In 1973, he transferred to the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonners Ferry Ranger District. He went to the Sandpoint Ranger District in 1978. In 1989, he was promoted to team leader and district engineer at the Priest Lake Ranger Station.

Art is survived by his wife Kathy, their children Sally Garrison and Doug Carothers and their families, and by his mother, brother and sister.

Priest Lake Ranger **Harley B. Howren**, 79, of Victor, Montana, died July 5 in Hamilton. Howren reportedly retired from the Forest Service, although no information is currently available on his place of employment. He also worked as a miner, union carpenter, and operated a sawmill at Rogers Corner.

Rosetta "Rosy" Sanborn, of Bonners Ferry, died May 15. Born in Baldwin, Michigan, in 1909, Rosy previously worked for the Forest Service as a district clerk for the former Troy and Yaak Ranger Districts and the Budget and Finance Office in the Supervisor's Office, Kootenai National Forest. She retired in 1975 from the Troy Ranger District.

Retirement News

Retirements

Arthur Leroy White, Jr., former program manager for planning for the Custer National Forest, retired July 23, after 32 years of Federal service. White's first permanent position with the Forest Service was in timber with the Bonners Ferry Ranger District, Kaniksu National Forest. From 1969-74, he was with the Fisher River and Canoe Gulch Ranger Districts, Kootenai National Forest in timber, reforestation and fire. He was with the Custer National Forest from 1979 in planning until his retirement.

White and his wife Arlene reside in Huntley, Montana, on the Pryor Creek Golf Course. They have three sons and a daughter. Their plans are to remain in Huntley most of the year, play golf, travel and enjoy yard work.

Ernie Nunn Has Retirement Party

Ernie Nunn, former supervisor of the Helena National Forest, was roasted in style at the Helena Civic Center on June 26. Over 150 friends, neighbors and relatives attended the event to send Ernie off to new horizons. The Nunn family enjoyed over two hours of roasting and toasting, stood in chagrin to several standing ovations and danced to the tunes of our own Sonny Stiger and the Outriders until the wee hours of the morning. The party was a fine tribute to a fine man and his 30 years of Federal service.

The community of Helena and the employees of the Helena National Forest wish Ernie and his family all the best! Good luck to you, Ernie!!

Hats Off to John Padden, Bus Driver (and Former Forest Service Employee)

John Padden, driver of bus #15, Birdseye Route, is recognized for his sensitivity and interest in the students on his bus. Students on his route state that John is there for them in many ways—a special word for each student as they board and depart; asking a worried child how a test went; showing ways to keep or make friends.

A peer writes that when a student who rides on his bus was killed, John requested to have counselors ride his bus to be available to talk to students. He handles problems fairly and treats his students with respect.

Padden holds a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Montana and retired in 1990 from the Helena National Forest. Padden was the range conservationist in the Supervisor's Office.

This is John's first year as a bus driver with the District. He writes that the best part of his job is the early morning drive across the valley to Silver City. He enjoys being with all the students, K-12, who ride his bus. He is a member of the Helena Lion's club and enjoys gardening and being outdoors.

from the Helena Public Schools newsletter, "The Messenger"

Smokey Bear Poster Contest--with a Twist

by Diana Enright, Public Information Technician
Cabinet Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest

Smokey Bear gets his message across by going where the action is—the refrigerator.

For the last 10 years, Kate Allder, fire prevention technician on the Cabinet Ranger District, has been running the Smokey Bear Poster Contest program for kindergarten through fifth graders at the Trout Creek and Noxon elementary schools. The winning posters have always been displayed at local post offices, the county fair, and the Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival. They also have been turned into placemats or run as supplements to the local newspaper.

This year, something new was tried. The Grand Price, Best of School and Best of Merit winning posters were “shrunk” and made into refrigerator magnets.

To support the poster promotion, Allder formed the Lower Clark Fork Valley Fire Prevention Program made up of local merchants, who also help judge the posters and contribute prizes to the kids. Some of the



prizes include ribbons and enamel Smokey pins. “I get so much good feedback from the kids,” Allder says. “They’re wearing the pins months later and will come up to me and say ‘Hi, I won!’”

The Northern Region News

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